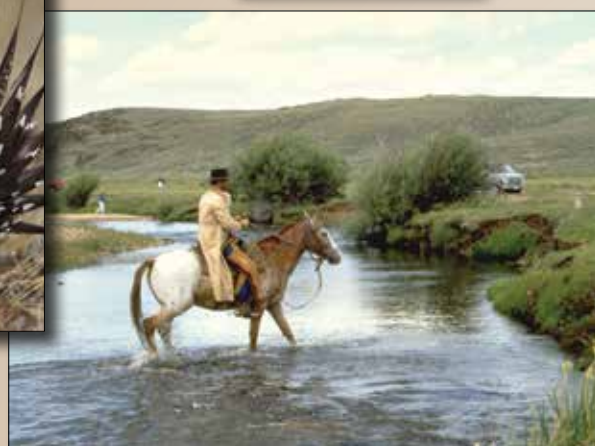
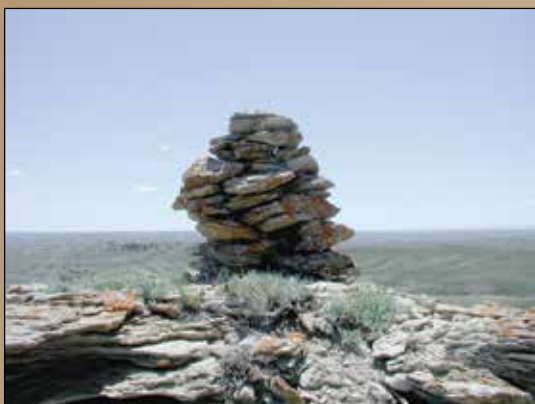




Welcome

To the Public Meeting for the Buffalo Resource Management Plan Revision



Buffalo Field Office

August 2013



What is a Public Meeting?

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Buffalo Draft Resource Management Plan Revision and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft RMP and EIS) is in the 90-day public comment period. The meetings are part of the ongoing public involvement process associated with the Draft RMP and EIS. The purpose of tonight's meeting is to receive public comments on this Draft RMP and EIS.

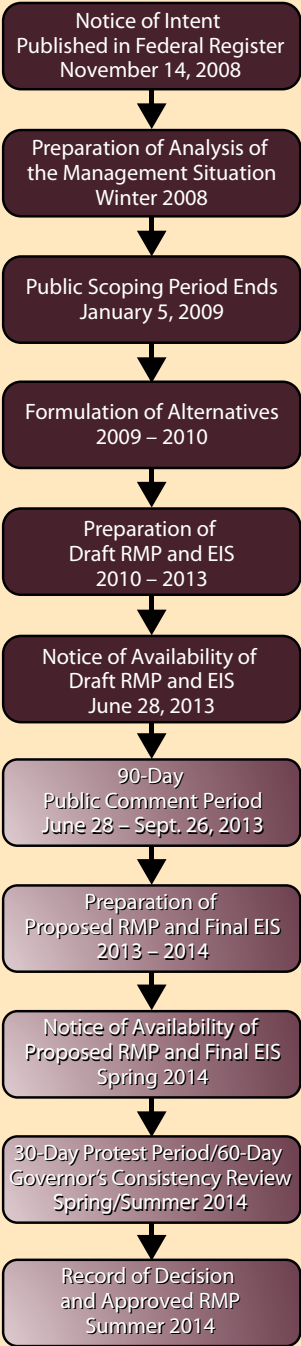
The public meeting will have the following agenda:

OPEN HOUSE
3:30 P.M. TO 7:00 P.M.

FORMAL PRESENTATIONS
4:00 P.M. and 6:00 P.M.



Where We Are



Shading indicates steps completed

Acronyms:
EIS- Environmental Impact Statement
RMP- Resource Management Plan

How to Navigate the Document

Reviewing a Resource Management Plan (RMP) can seem a daunting task, but by focusing your review on key areas you can distill the portions of the plan that are most important to you. While we encourage full review of the document, if time is a limiting factor, we suggest you use the steps on the right below to guide you as you review the document.

Guide to the Buffalo Draft RMP and EIS

The outline below provides an overview of the major sections of the Draft RMP and EIS.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Provides a summary of why the RMP is being revised, descriptions of the alternatives, and the potential effects of the alternatives.

CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter introduces the Draft RMP and EIS, describes the purpose and need to which the BLM is responding, provides an overview of the BLM planning process, identifies planning issues and criteria, and identifies topics not addressed by this RMP revision.

CHAPTER 2. RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ALTERNATIVES

Chapter 2 discusses how the four alternatives (A, B, C, and D) were developed and provides the components and content of each alternative.

CHAPTER 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

This chapter describes the Buffalo Field Office planning area and the existing environmental conditions that could be impacted by the alternatives.

CHAPTER 4. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Chapter 4 describes how the environment would be affected by the alternatives.

CHAPTER 5. REFERENCES

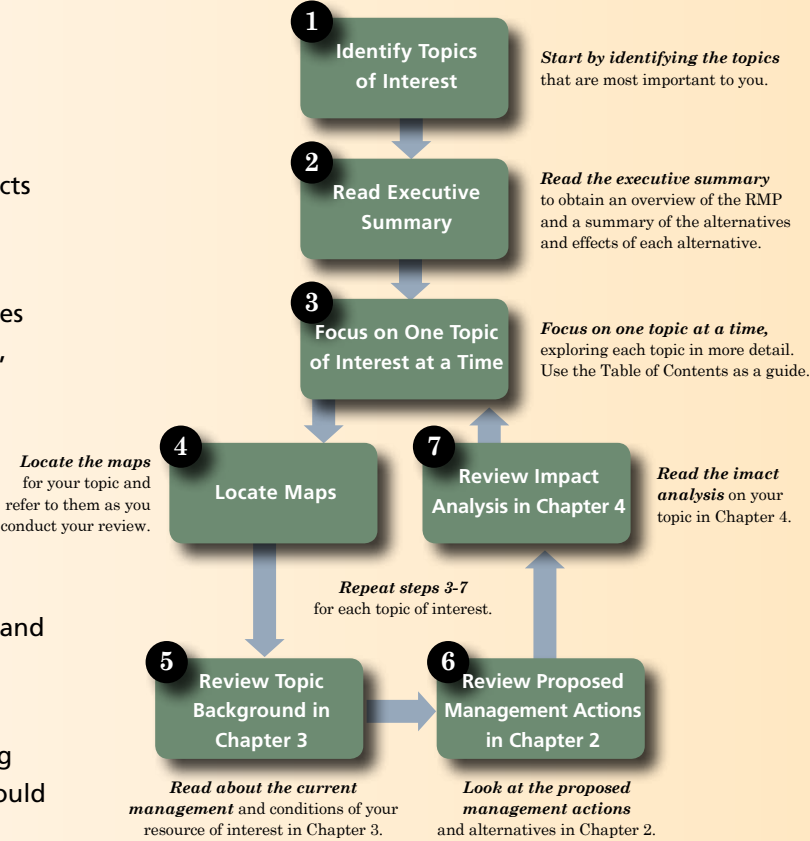
This chapter provides full citation information for all references cited within the document.

CHAPTER 6. LIST OF PREPARERS

This chapter provides a list of BLM managers, resource specialists, and consultants who prepared the document.

APPENDICES AND MAPS

The appendices include documents that provide background and support analyses, including consultation and coordination activities. Maps are available electronically on CD with hardcopy documents in Volume 3, included on CD versions of the document, or on the Buffalo RMP website (<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html>).



Resource discussions in chapters 2, 3, and 4 are organized according to the following eight resource topics:

- 1000. Physical Resources
- 2000. Mineral Resources
- 3000. Fire and Fuels Management
- 4000. Biological Resources
- 5000. Heritage and Visual Resources
- 6000. Land Resources
- 7000. Special Designations
- 8000. Socioeconomic Resources

Making Effective Comments

The Buffalo Draft RMP and EIS is available for review and comment. This handout provides helpful tips on how to make effective comments. Please be sure to submit your comments before the end of the comment period on September 26, 2013.

Why are public comments so important?

The BLM is a federal land management agency tasked with managing public lands in the public interest. As such, we factor in your issues and concerns through the public comment process. Comments that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail are most useful. Substantive comments are compiled in a published document as an appendix to the proposed RMP and final EIS. Individual response letters will not be provided. A substantive comment is one that does one or more of the following:

- Questions, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the RMP and EIS;
- Questions, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis;
- Presents new information relevant to the analysis;
- Presents reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the EIS; or
- Causes changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives.

BLM reviews all comments and identifies which comments are substantive and which are not. Comments that are not substantive will be considered, but will not be included in the published appendix. For example, a comment such as, “we disagree with Alternative B and believe the BLM should select Alternative C,” is noted, but will not receive formal BLM response in the appendix.

How to review and comment

- Start your review by reading the executive summary.
- Identify the topic that is most important to you.
- Focus on one topic at a time. For that topic, familiarize yourself and review the document in the following order: Maps, Chapter 3, Chapter 2 alternatives, and then Chapter 4.

As you write your comments, consider the following general Do’s and Don’ts of commenting:

THE DO’S...

- Suggest specific changes in the document, and provide the page number and section of the document in your comment.
- Clearly identify:
 - Where the issue or error is located.
 - Why you believe there is an error.
 - Alternative ideas about how to address issues or errors.
- Provide constructive solutions with documentation or resources to support your recommendations.
- If applicable, include your formal and informal education or training as it relates to your observations and comments.

AND DON'TS

- Avoid vague statements or concerns. Vague statements do not suggest a specific change or give the BLM direction on which to act.
- Understand that a comment is not a vote for or against one of the alternatives. The BLM must rely on supporting information, not on the number of comments received. Numerous comments expressing the same concern or issue are considered to be one comment.
- Avoid using form letters to convey your point. Your unique way of writing or phrasing a comment is important for understanding your point of view.



Alternatives A, B, C, and D are presented in Volume 1, Tables 2.4 - 2.37 of the Draft RMP and EIS. When making a comment, suggest how the document should be changed and provide supporting information. At this time, Alternative D is the BLM’s Preferred Alternative. Each management action in Tables 2.4 - 2.37 is associated with a “record number” in the left hand column. When commenting, please identify the record number and the alternative (A, B, C, or D) to which you are referring (e.g., Water-1008A or Water-1008D). Including this information will help us identify the exact location of the subject of your comment.

Example Comments

Consider these example comments as you begin to formulate your own comments:



HELPFUL COMMENTS...

Alternative B prescribes no new well pads within 200 feet of sand dune areas. This prescription is too restrictive. Data collected by Sias and Snell (1996) supports that impacts to sand dune lizards are greatly reduced when new oil/gas well pads are placed at least 100 feet away from occupied dune complexes while allowing oil and gas development to occur. The additional 100-foot protection area is excessive.

Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) designation is not required in the proposed High Hills because standard or routine management prescriptions (*list them out*) are sufficient to protect the resource values.

I disagree with the Visual Resource Management Class II designation for the area between Low Valley and Dry River. This area contains radio towers, power lines, and fences which detract from the view already. This area also contains valuable mineral deposits which are currently being developed and that development is expected to continue. The classification should be changed to Class III.

Designation of the Beauty Creek Segment as a Wild and Scenic River would preclude exercising valid existing water rights (*provide the details of the rights*).



NOT SO HELPFUL COMMENTS

A 200-foot buffer for no new wells around sand dunes is excessive and places unnecessary constraints on development.

Why is this comment not helpful?

The comment is not specific enough to allow BLM to understand why the buffer is excessive. It does not contain supporting information or rationale.

Eliminate ACECs.

Why is this comment not helpful?

The BLM must provide the specific rationale for a decision not to provide special management attention or an area which has been nominated as an ACEC (BLM Manual 1613).

The Preferred Alternative has too much Visual Resource Management Class II.

Why is this comment not helpful?

This comment is not specific enough for the BLM to consider in balance with other resource issues. It does not contain supporting information or rationale.

Wild and Scenic River designation is not needed.

Why is this comment not helpful?

The BLM must make a suitability determination for all segments of streams which have been determined eligible (BLM Manual 8351).

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED

Alternative A (Current Management)

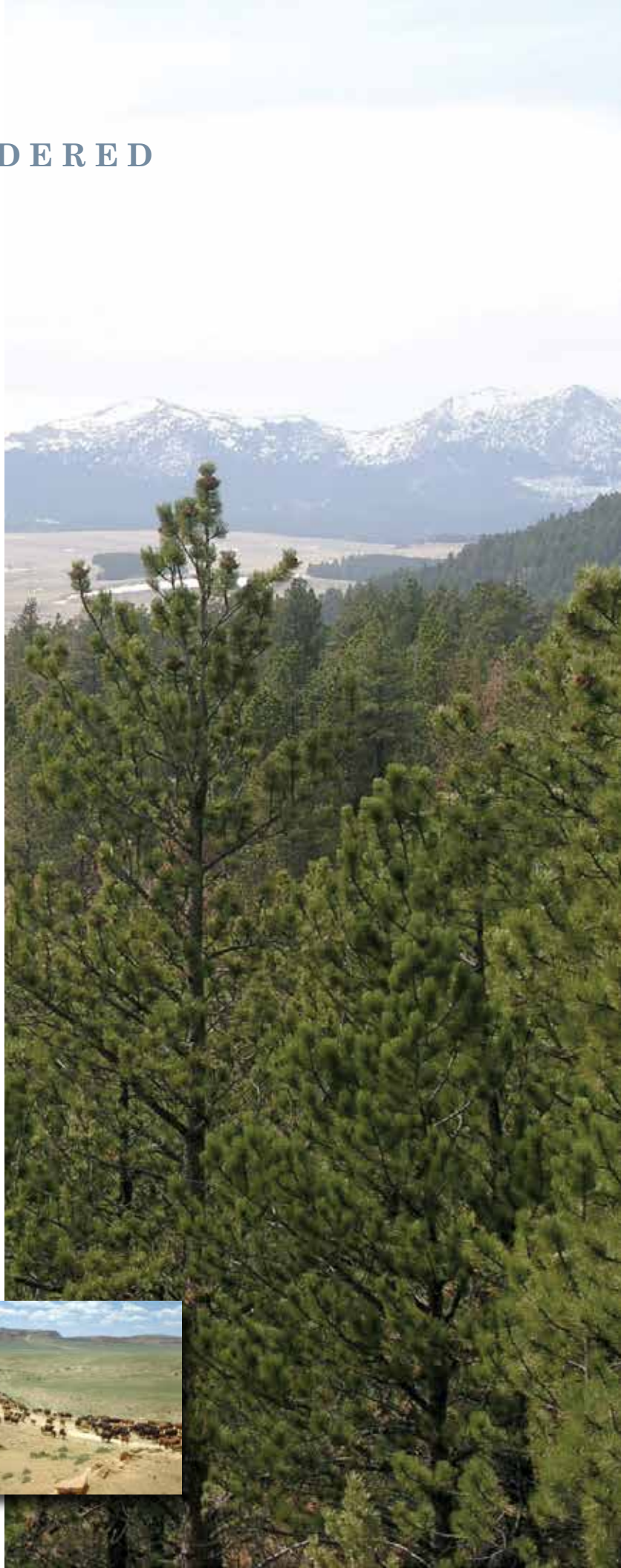
Alternative A, the No Action Alternative, continues the management approach established by the 1985 Buffalo RMP as updated by the 2001 Buffalo RMP Update and amended by the 2003 Amendment for the Powder River Basin Oil and Gas Project.

- Oil and gas leasing is administratively unavailable on 2,346,307 acres of federal mineral estate, subject to moderate constraints on 782,501 acres, and major constraints on 85,548 acres.
- All of the federal mineral estate (4,775,136 acres) is open (subject to screening) to coal exploration and leasing.
- Livestock grazing is allowed on all but 10,000 acres of BLM-managed surface.
- Greater Sage-Grouse management restricts surface disturbance and occupancy; controlled surface use (CSU) within 0.25 mile of leks (3,594 acres) and timing limitation (TL) stipulations within 2 miles of leks (203,724 acres).
- No ACECs are designated under Alternative A.
- Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails on 150,070 acres.

Alternative B (Resource Conservation)

Alternative B emphasizes conservation of physical, biological, heritage, and visual resources, while still providing for resource uses. Alternative B incorporates the BLM’s National Technical Team and many public recommendations to protect Greater Sage-Grouse.

- Oil and gas leasing is administratively unavailable on 2,612,920 acres of federal mineral estate, subject to moderate constraints on 124,467 acres, and major constraints on 642,232 acres.
- Coal exploration and leasing is allowed (subject to screening) on 715,388 acres (development potential only) while 4,072,115 acres are closed.
- Livestock grazing is available on 314,205 acres, while 467,897 acres are considered incompatible with other resource uses or values.
- Greater Sage-Grouse management applies no surface occupancy (NSO) stipulations on 467,897 acres, CSU stipulations on 695,827 acres, and TL stipulations on 467,897 acres.
- Eight ACECs encompass 536,304 acres of BLM-managed surface.
- Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails on 451,077 acres.



Alternative C (Resource Development)

Alternative C emphasizes resource uses such as mineral development by reducing conservation measures afforded physical, biological, heritage, and visual resources to the minimum required by law or policy.

- Oil and gas leasing is administratively unavailable on 30,520 acres of federal mineral estate, subject to moderate constraints on 2,472,472 acres, and major constraints on 303,601 acres.
- All of the federal mineral estate (4,775,136 acres) is open (subject to screening) to coal exploration and leasing.
- Livestock grazing is allowed on all but 4,583 acres of BLM-managed surface which are considered incompatible with other resource uses or values.
- Greater Sage-Grouse management restricts surface-disturbing activities, disruptive activities, and occupancy; CSU stipulations within 0.25 mile of leks (3,594 acres) and TL stipulations within 2 miles of leks (203,724 acres).
- No ACECs are designated under Alternative C.
- Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails on 723,497 acres.

Alternative D (Preferred Alternative)

Alternative D represents the BLM’s Preferred Alternative at this stage of the process. It applies a more balanced approach than alternatives B and C, and generally allows resource uses where they can be conducted in a manner that achieves the goals and objectives for physical, biological, heritage, and visual resources. Permanent forage allocations would consider watershed protection, livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, and other resource values. Alternative D designates the second largest land area as Special Recreation Management Areas and ACECs and emphasizes moderate constraints on resource uses (e.g., mineral development) to reduce impacts to resource values.

Alternative D’s management approach supports economic development, such as oil and gas development, and traditional land uses like mining and livestock grazing. Alternative D Greater Sage-Grouse management incorporates the Wyoming Governor’s Core Population Area Strategy and BLM Wyoming’s Greater Sage-Grouse Habitat Management Policy.

- Oil and gas leasing is administratively unavailable on 101,214 acres of federal mineral estate, subject to moderate constraints on 2,753,125 acres, and major constraints on 292,0981 acres.
- All of the federal mineral estate (4,775,136 acres) is open (subject to screening) to coal exploration and leasing.
- Livestock grazing is available on 772,110 acres, but 9,992 acres are considered incompatible with other resource uses or values.
- Greater Sage-Grouse management restricts resource uses more in Core Population Areas than outside these areas; applies NSO stipulations (9,966 acres) within 0.6 mile of leks in Core Population Areas and Connectivity Corridors and within 0.25 mile of leks outside Core Population Areas and Connectivity Corridors. Also applies CSU and TL stipulations according to Core Population Area strategy.
- Three ACECs encompass 35,451 acres of BLM-managed surface.
- Motorized vehicle use is limited to existing roads and trails on 620,252 acres.

How to Comment on the Buffalo Draft RMP and EIS

Where can I obtain a copy of the Draft RMP and EIS?

The Draft RMP and EIS is available at the Buffalo Field Office and the following websites:

<http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/programs/Planning/rmps/buffalo.html>

https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/nepa/nepa_register.do

Copies are also available at your local library.

How do I comment?

During the 90-day comment period (June 28, 2013 - September 26, 2013) you are encouraged to comment on any aspect of the document. Comment forms are available at the public meetings. Comments may also be submitted by any of the following methods:

- BLM's National Environmental Policy Act website:
https://www.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/lup/lup_register.do
- Email: BRMP_Rev_WYMail@blm.gov
- Fax: (307) 684-1122
- Mail or personal delivery:
Tom Bills, Buffalo RMP and EIS
BLM Buffalo Field Office
1425 Fort Street, Buffalo, WY 82834

PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUBMIT ALL COMMENTS BY SEPTEMBER 26, 2013
TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE PROPOSED RMP AND FINAL EIS.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
TIME AND EFFORT TO
REVIEW THE BUFFALO
DRAFT RMP AND EIS.
YOUR PARTICIPATION IS
NEEDED TO MAKE THE
BUFFALO RMP REVISION
PROCESS A SUCCESS.**